



Arizona State Senate **Background Brief**

October 4, 2006

Note to Reader:

The Senate Research Staff provides nonpartisan, objective legislative research, policy analysis and related assistance to the members of the Arizona State Senate. The *Research Briefs* series, which includes the *Issue Brief*, *Background Brief* and *Issue Paper*, is intended to introduce a reader to various legislatively related issues and provide useful resources to assist the reader in learning more on a given topic. Because of frequent legislative and executive activity, topics may undergo frequent changes. Additionally, nothing in the *Brief* should be used to draw conclusions on the legality of an issue.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY: Division of Developmental Disabilities

DIVISION MISSION

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is a division within the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES). The mission of DDD is to support the choices of individuals with disabilities and their families by providing flexible, quality, consumer-driven services and supports within their community.

DDD SERVICES

DDD provides services to individuals diagnosed with cognitive disability, cerebral palsy, autism or epilepsy that manifests before age 18 and is likely to continue indefinitely, and who also have substantial limitations in three or more of the following life functions: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency. Services provided by DDD include attendant care; habilitation; housekeeping; home health aid; home nursing; home modifications; occupational, physical and speech therapies; day treatment and training; respite; medical services; and nonemergency transportation.

DDD support service coordinators in local offices organized into six districts throughout the state determine eligibility for services, develop and implement individual plans for services, and monitor outcomes. Decisions about which services and support a client receives are based on a team process. The team consists of the client, the client's family and the DDD support coordinator and anyone else the client wants to invite, such as therapists and other involved providers.

ALTCS Eligibility

An applicant for DDD services may qualify for the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS), which is primarily funded from Medicaid and administered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Administration. The AHCCCS

Administration assesses a person's functional and medical status to determine eligibility, and the person must qualify both financially and medically to be eligible for ALTCS. Financial limitations are cash resources of less than \$2,000 and monthly income of not more than 300 percent of the maximum Supplemental Security Income benefit. DDD is the contracted provider of ALTCS services for people with developmental disabilities.

State-only Eligibility

An applicant not eligible for ALTCS due to financial qualifications may be eligible for state-only funded services. To be eligible for state-only funded services, the person must meet the functional and medical criteria for ALTCS eligibility. Individuals in this eligibility category are entitled to DDD services only to the extent that funding from state appropriations is available. DDD may bill the client or the client's family for a portion of the cost of services based upon income and a sliding fee scale.

Arizona Early Intervention Program

Children age birth to 36 months who are developmentally delayed or have an established condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay are eligible for services under the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), which is funded by a combination of AHCCCS monies and state appropriations. AzEIP provides services planned to support a child's growth, development and learning. DDD works in partnership with other state agencies, including the Department of Health Services and the Department of Education, to provide a case plan and services for AzEIP-eligible children.

SERVICE PROVIDERS

DDD provides most services through contracts with private individual and agency service providers.

Statute requires DDD to establish a rate structure that ensures equitable funding for private agencies that provide developmental disabilities services. DDD must review and adjust the rate structure each fiscal year based on

an annual study by an independent consulting firm. Once benchmark rates are established by the consulting firm, DDD determines the actual rates it pays based on its available funding. The Auditor General completed an audit of DDD in September of 2005 and reported that DDD has developed an appropriate model to set provider rates.

OVERSIGHT OF DDD

In addition to the DES Director, the following entities provide state oversight of DDD: the Developmental Disabilities Oversight Committee; the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council; the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities; the Governor's Interagency Council on Long Term Care; and the Human Rights Committee on the Developmentally Disabled.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- DES Division of Developmental Disabilities
www.azdes.gov/ddd
- Division of Developmental Disabilities Statutes: Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 36, Chapter 5.1
- "DES-Division of Developmental Disabilities," Office of the Auditor General, September 2005, Report No. 05-07
www.auditorgen.state.az.us
- "DES-Division of Developmental Disabilities – ALTCS Financial Audit," Office of the Auditor General, June 30 of each year
www.auditorgen.state.az.us
- Annual Appropriations Report, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
www.azleg.gov/jlbc.htm